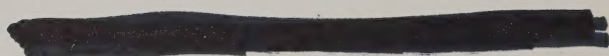





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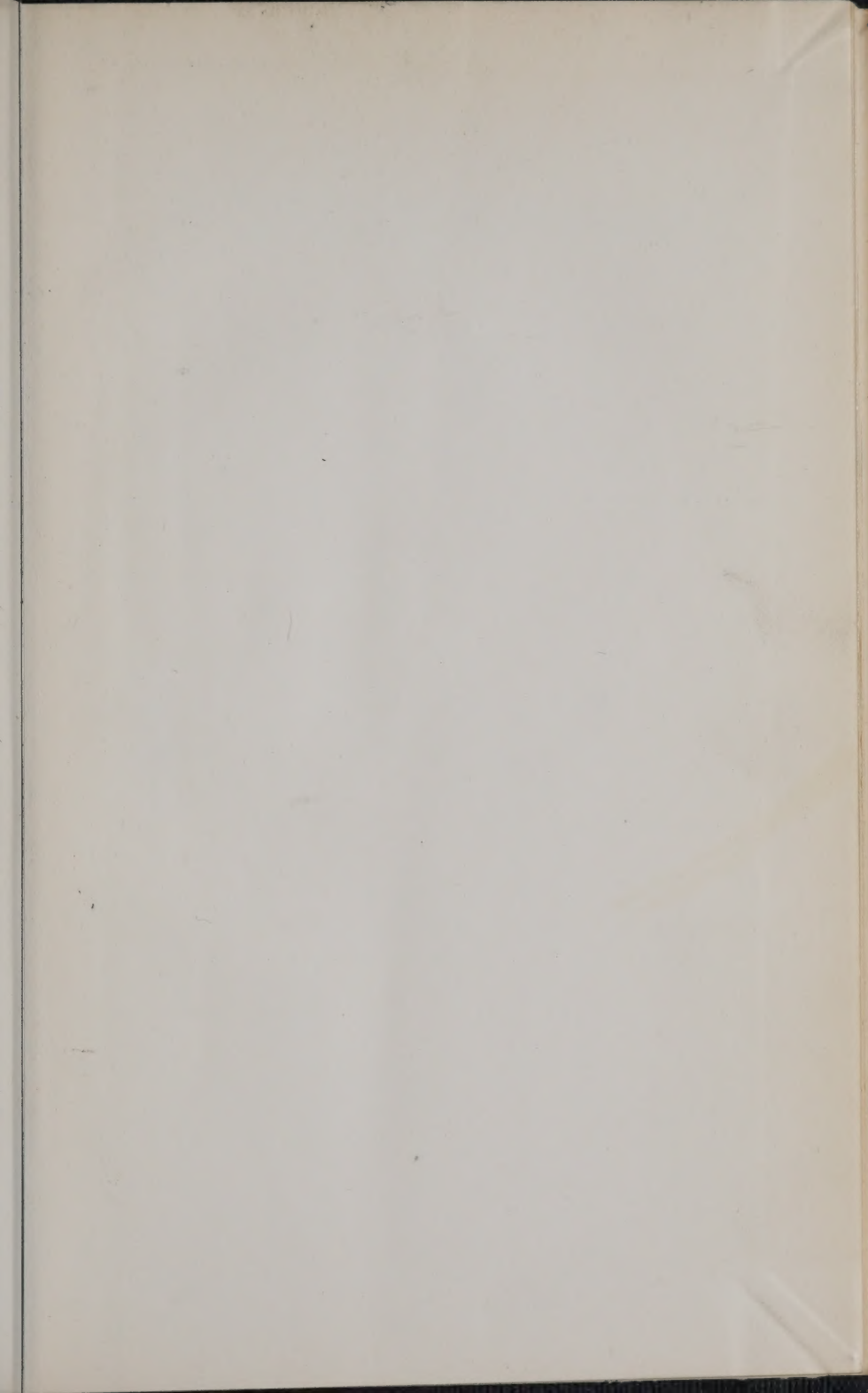
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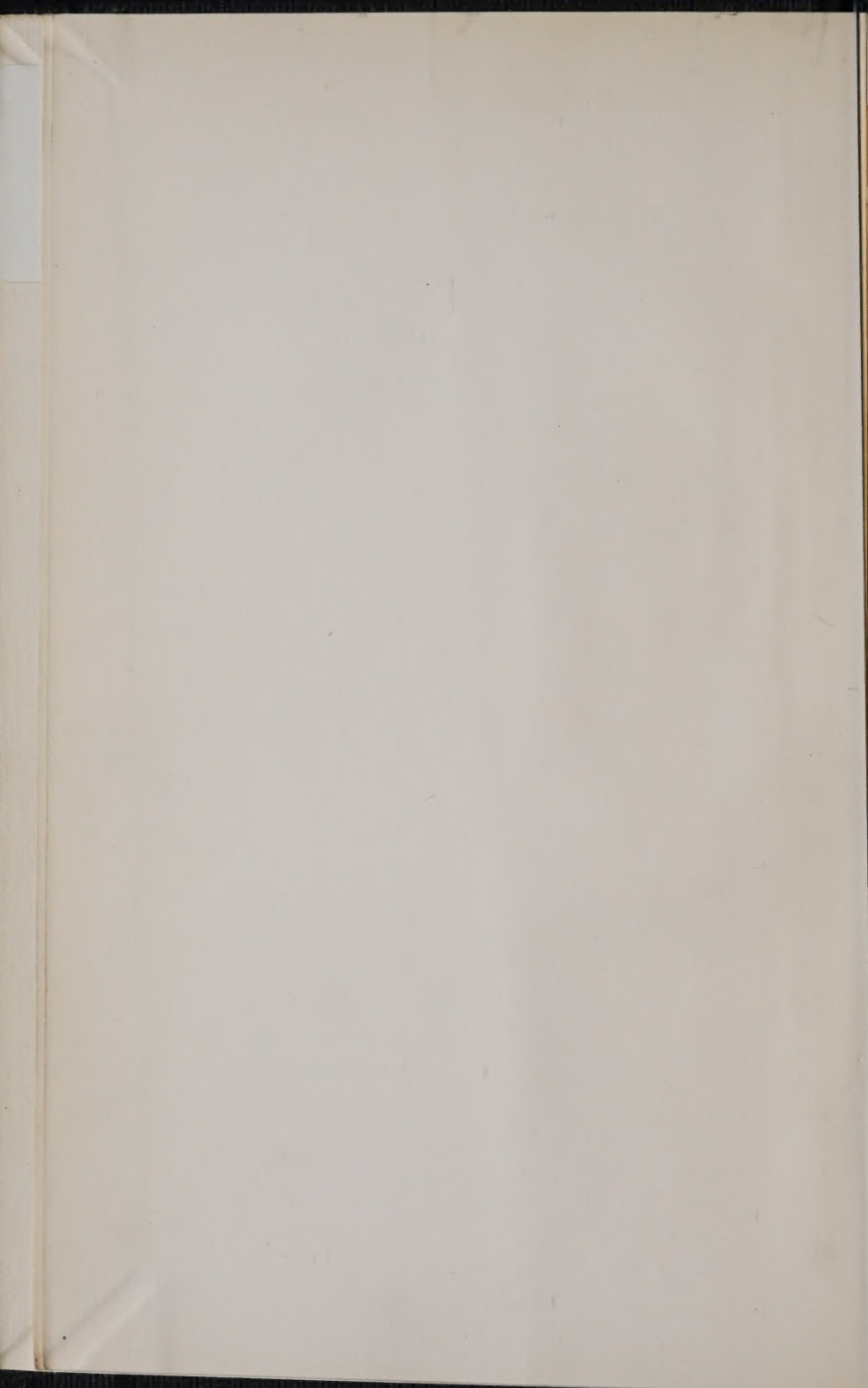
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50 yrs., 1894-1944 Y.W.C.A.
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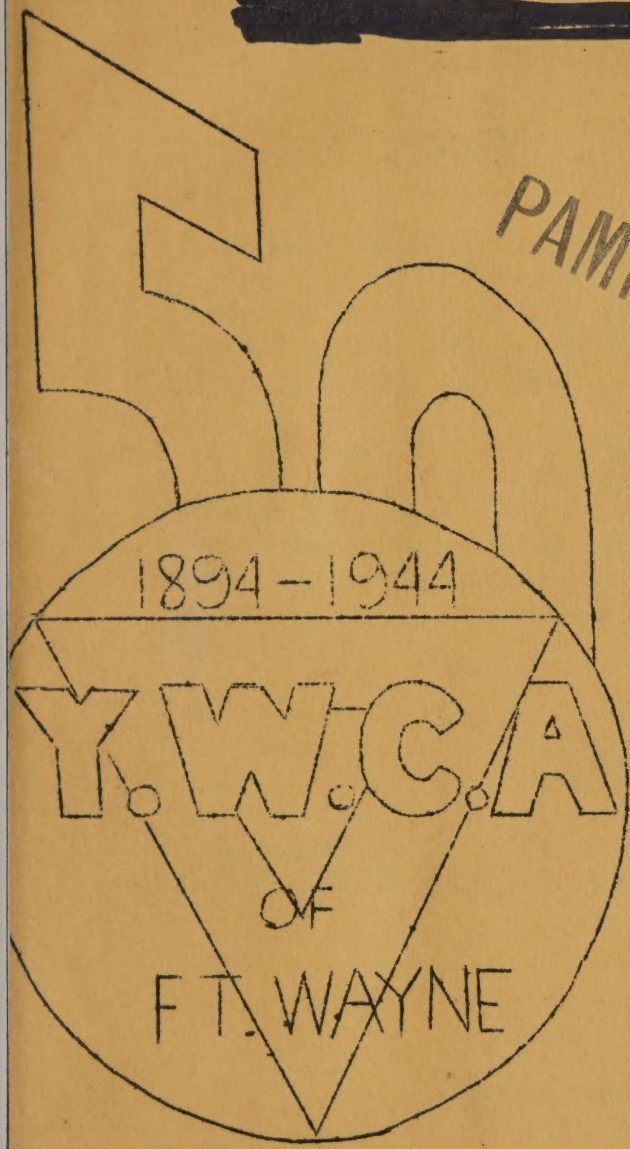
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FOREWORD

We are most indebted to Mrs. Dick M. Vesey for the following pages of historical highlights that have been compiled by her from Board Minutes, old Scrap Books, and paper clippings.

It is our hope that all important facts have been discovered and recorded for these fifty years, but should certain records of historical value have been accidentally overlooked, we are sure you will bear with us.

A kaleidoscopic view of the Fort Wayne Young Women's Christian Association is most gratifying, for the years have brought growth and richness to thousands of lives who have been touched by this great organization.

FEB 25 1946

THE YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

of

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

1894

1944

The Young Women's Christian Association was born in a world turbulent and trying. Western Europe was a perpetual battlefield. Intrigue and political ambitions made the continent a place of continuous strife. The English and French were fighting the Russians in what is known as the Crimean War. The women of England were war-weary and despondent. In 1855 a small group of young women met together in London to pray for peace, and deliverance from the pain of war.

This band of praying women became the first Y. W. C. A. This incident is the basis for the tradition that the Association originally held prayer meetings. These English women very quickly changed their "pleas for mercy" to "deeds of mercy", for at the termination of the war they gave assistance and homes to the returning nurses. And thus the Y.W.C.A. began its truly inimitable program of service to women.

In the middle of the 1800s thoughts and ideas traveled slowly from one hemisphere to another, and it was not until 1866 that a Y.W.C.A. was organized in our Country, in Boston. This group also found its first responsibility that of solving the problems of women after a war. The Civil War just ended, the whole country found itself in the throes of a new industrial era. Women were entering industry and the Y.W.C.A. found its possibilities to serve women unlimited.

Fort Wayne, in 1894, was fast growing from a small county seat to a hustling industrial and railroad center. All business was growing and

expanding. The town was alert to new ideas and the chance for women to enter industry was quickly accepted by a thrifty populace. Hence the Y.W.C.A. aim to form a Christian group of women including all ranks and classes received warm approval and good response.

Early in May, 1894, three young college women, Miss Rena B. Nelson, Mrs. Minnie Moon, and Miss Agnes Hamilton became interested in the idea of a Young Women's Christian Association in Fort Wayne. In the hope of interesting others, they met at the Old Hamilton Homestead on East Lewis St., and invited about thirty women to meet with them, and talked the matter over. Miss Hamilton, a member of a prominent pioneer family led the discussion. She was familiar with the ideals of the Association and read to them the Purpose:

"To stimulate interest in Evangelical religion among young women of this city, and to improve their spiritual, intellectual, social and physical condition."

These women became enthusiastic and planned to have a general meeting soon, at the First Presbyterian Church, with Miss Shank, State Secretary, speaker. The final meeting for organization was held again at the home of Miss Hamilton when memberships were taken and committees were appointed. The first planning committee consisted of Mesdames A. D. Guild, Frank Sessions, Minnie Moon, and W. E. Mossman, with Mrs. Melvin A. Brannon as Chairman. Others present at the first Y.W.C.A. meeting were:

Mrs. A. E. Hoffman	Miss Sadie Sturgis
Mrs. E. L. Crow	Miss Lida Sturgis
Mrs. Mary E. Waldo	Miss Charlotte Lowery
Mrs. W. L. Carnahan	Miss Tracy Guild

Mrs. E.A.K.Hackett	Miss Helen Moffatt
Mrs. G. W. McCaskey	Miss Agnes Hamilton
Mrs. Peter Smyser	Miss Nellie McKay
Mrs. E. F. Yarnelle	Miss Mabel Robertson
Mrs. Carl Siemon	Miss Rena Nelson
Mrs. Geo. Evans	Miss Abigail Keegan
Miss Merica Hoagland	Miss Katherine Hamilton
Miss Kate Chapin	

The charter membership was 135, and the first officers were:

President.....	Miss Agnes Hamilton
Vice President.....	Mrs. Peter Smyser
Recording Secy.	Miss Rena B. Nelson
Corres, Secy.	Mrs. W. E. Mossman
Treasurer.....	Mrs. A. L. Griebel

Other members of the Board were: Mrs. W. L. Carnahan Mrs. J. W. Sale, Mrs. P. A. Randall, and Mrs. C. W. Fairbanks.

The "NOON REST", a place where employed girls could either buy a lunch, or take a lunch was the first objective of the organization. With this in view, three rooms were secured at 25 W. W. St. These rooms were made very attractive, and a pleasant yard in rear added to its comfort. The idea proved popular from the beginning, and with Mrs. Phineas Underhill in charge, the rooms were formally opened on Aug. 10, 1894. A model bill of fare at that time included "eggs, 2¢ each; meat 5¢; dessert 5¢, tea or milk 3¢, coffee 4¢.

The first General Secretary was Miss Adeliade Abel of Boston. At the reception given in her honor she stated "The Y.W.C.A. is in no sense a charitable institution, but an institution whereby all young women associate themselves together for mutual advantage."

During the first year, the Y.W.C.A. offered classes in arithmetic, grammar, penmanship, drawing, physiolo

German, French, pianofort, and physical culture. There were two Bible classes every Sunday P.M. The rooms were open every day from 9:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.

Among the teachers of the various classes were Misses Alice Hamilton, Lillie Beaker, Gertrude Wilding, Merica Hoagland, Kate Hamilton, Margaret Smith, Ethel Jenness, and Mrs. Tom Ellison.

Many entertainments were given by interested members, and names appearing on many programs were Misses Anna Philley, Edith Yarnelle, Charlotte Lowery, Helen Smyser, Margie Hanna, and Carrie Hughes. Also, the Hayden Quartette: Messrs. Yarnelle, Olds, Worden, and Lang.

Outgrowing the home on W. Wayne St., headquarters were changed to a larger house at 24 W. Washington Blvd. But this soon proved inadequate and in 1897 a double brick residence at 51-53 W. Berry, owned by John H. Bass, became the home of the Y.W.C.A. At this time the secretary, the Matron, and "two servant girls" were kept in the house. There were seven girls who made the house their permanent home. On the rear of this lot was built the first Y.W.C.A. gymnasium.

Miss Agnes Hamilton, the first president of the Association, was succeeded by Miss Lillie Beaker, who later became a Missionary in Persia. Then Miss Merica Hoagland became president. In 1898 Mrs. Fred J. Hayden was elected, and served until 1906, when she declined re-election.

A Charter was granted the Fort Wayne Association by the National Board on November 10, 1906. Mrs. W. J. Vesey was elected president in 1906 and served until her death in April, 1910.

After the sudden death of Mrs. Vesey, Mrs. J. S. House was elected president. She is said to have accepted the nomination on condition that every one on the Board of Managers get behind the project for a new building for the Y.W.C.A. The need for larger headquarters was felt in every department, so this cooperation was immediately pledged.

In 1910 plans were laid for a "whirlwind Campaign" to be conducted early in 1911, for the purpose of raising a fund of \$100,000.00 for a new building and equipment. An advisory committee was selected, composed of Messrs. D. N. Foster (publicity chairman), W. E. Mossman, E. F. Yarnelle, Fredrick Thieme, A. H. Perfect, A. E. Hoffman, George W. Beers, and C. H. Worden, the battle cry to be "A short pull-A strong pull-and a pull together".

The officers of the Board of Managers were Mrs. J. S. House, President; Mrs. A. J. Vesey, Treasurer; and Mrs. J. R. Meriwether, Secretary. Other members of the Board were: Mrs. Geo. Beers, Mrs. C. Martz, Mrs. F. J. Hayden, Mrs. Geo. Philbrick, Mrs. D. W. Doyle, Mrs. Catherine Hettler, Miss Anna Philley, Mrs. Mary Sturgis, Mrs. John Shoaff, Mrs. Fred Thieme, Mrs. John Evans, Mrs. C. S. Knight, Mrs. H. L. Askew, Mrs. Mason Long, Mrs. L. E. Johnson, Mrs. Geo. Evans, Mrs. Paul Mossman, Mrs. G. W. Pixley, Mrs. Theo. Wentz, Mrs. Henry Stapleford, Mrs. H. Brooke Sale, and Miss Kate Chapin.

The campaign was a publicized one. There were 300 workers organized into majors, captains, etc. A huge clock was erected on the court house square to tick off the amounts as pledges came in. Dinners were served at the First Presbyterian Church for the solicitors. All ministers preached a sermon on the services and ideals of the Y.W.C.A. on the Sunday before the campaign. Their congregations were urged to forget church lines in this community effort.

The campaign was a success, and expressed the universal appeal of a most worthy cause. The contributions extended from modest individual gifts, to as much as a thousand dollars from girls' clubs, and as high as \$5,000.00 from liberal citizens.

The location finally selected for the new residence was the property known as the Edgerton Property at 325 W. Wayne St., for \$21,500.00. The lot was 102 x 150 ft. priced at \$211.00 per front

ft. Later the committee decided to add the 49 ft. of the Moderwell property on the east. Of this they sold 35 ft. to the Public School Board for the Public Library yard, giving the Y.W.C.A. a lot 116 x 150 ft.

Mr. J. F. Wing was employed as architect for the new building. The corner stone for the building was laid May 16, 1911; and the formal dedication was held May 3, 1913. Miss Ida V. Jontz delivered the principal address. She was executive secretary of the central field of the Y.W.C.A. Rev. Pliny Potts gave the invocation, and Rev. C. Claude Travis conducted the dedicatory service.

It was just nineteen years after the Young Women's Christian Association was started in Fort Wayne that the organization moved into the new home. The cooperation and group planning which was necessary to build the home was a hearty acceleration which was evidenced in all the Association program.

In 1912 there were 365 paid members. At the time of the dedication a move was made to increase this to 1,000.

PROGRAM EXPANSION

There was an impetus to program expansion after they moved to 325 W. Wayne. Young girls were forming Camp Fire Groups as a result of national interest in health and nature clubs for young people. A Camp Fire Club was organized in 1915 in the Y.W.C.A. Girls of this club later became members of the Friendship Club. Miss Mary Harrah started the first Friendship Club in the Central High School in 1916.

The National Y.W.C.A. then started Girl Reserve Clubs for girls from 12 to 18 years of age, and the clubs here adopted that name in 1920. They are a part of the Younger Girls' Work Department. Now there are 18 Girl Reserve Clubs in Fort Wayne with 797 enrolled in the program. 256 girls are registered in the Saturday Grade School program, held in the Y.W.C.A.

A group which thrived around the 20s was the Industrial Department. There were 2,000 members

of our Association who were industrial club members. There were clubs in 8 factories, each club with a Y.W.C.A. advisor. Mrs. Mabel Whitbeck was the first secretary for the Industrial Department. Today the Mabel Whitbeck Club is the oldest club in the Association. The Business and Professional women also had a club. These women later became affiliated with the National Business and Professional Women's Club.

The newly organized Young Adult Department was formed in 1940 and has six clubs today. Two clubs of young business and professional women, the Triangle Club and the Grace Dodge Club; the Young Home-Makers Club, the Les Bonnes Amies Club, the International Harvester, and the Two Y's Club of men and women.

In 1938 we formed our first mixed club. Young men and women formed the Two Y's Club. They still meet for dinners and have lively discussions along with a varied educational and recreational program.

The "Mixer Dances" were started in 1926, and the Mixer Council was organized in 1931.

YES, WE HAVE - FINANCES

Early days were frugal days with the Y.W.C.A. Many unique plans were perfected to augment the income. A Women's Food Exchange was conducted in the building. Home baked goods were sold at a small profit which helped pay overhead.

In order to furnish the rooms, members of the Board were asked to solicit friends for furnishings. Much of the actual housework was done by the members. Sewing curtains, sheets, comforters, table cloths, etc, were done on two sewing machines used a great deal of the time. The cooking was often done by volunteers, and the waitresses of the dining room were all Board and Committee members, working on definite schedules.

Regular meetings of members were often held in homes. Sometimes a hostess would donate \$5.00

instead of entertaining. At social afternoon events donations were always brought to the meetings. The Needle Work Guild contributed heavily to the needs of the Association.

The Board members contributed personally a vast amount toward the expenses. It was not unusual at any Board of Managers meeting for some member to volunteer some special expense such as telephone extension, new curtains, table cloths, silver or the expense of delegates to conventions.

The early Presidents had many problems and not the least was the matter of expenses. The first suggestion of an expense budget was made in 1910. Thereafter all departments and the general administration operated on that plan. Funds for maintenance were solicited annually; usually a member from the National office was available to plan and promote the campaign. Later professional campaign managers were employed.

The profits from the dining room after 1910 eased the budgets to a great extent. We had very little difficulty in meeting the goal in the campaigns, and were reluctant to enter the Council of Social Agencies. Finally we joined the Council in 1922, on condition that our National quota be allowed.

Then came lean years for the Council, and in 1931 we withdrew and solicited our own funds again. Money was scarce, and although the Board of Directors set up a "bare bone" budget there were times when they were uncertain if there would be enough to continue operations.

Unless one is familiar with the Board actions at that time, it is hard to realize with what heroism the members valiantly carried on. The Board members actually performed many of the tasks about the building, the staff "donated" their salaries at the hardest spots, the dining room and two offices were rented to the Red Cross for its sewing project; the cafeteria was rented to two business women at a regular amount, and the swimming pool was closed. All this enabled them to keep the Y.W.C.A. doors open. But they did

just that; and they also tried to offer a program of interest to unemployed women, and girls just out of school particularly. Mrs. L. A. Woodard must be mentioned here as a large factor to the success of the strategy. Her devotion and courage gave strength to the other workers, when funds and staff had been so depleted.

In 1935 we again joined the Community Chest, and finances became easier again. One of our great blessings has been the George W. Lowe bequest.

Mr. Charles R. Lane gave the Association \$500.00 to be called the "Hadley-Lane Fund" the income to be used to render assistance to needy young women without funds.

In normal years the amount asked for from the "Chest" is about equal to the Association income, or fifty percent self-supporting. Today our finances are in good condition.

In 1922-23 the governing boards, under the presidency of Miss Abigail Keegan, took another important step -- they enlarged our building, adding more residence rooms, a modern gymnasium, and a swimming pool. This necessitated a mortgage of \$72,000.00 covered in part by pledges payable over a three year period. A "Mortgage" means "Guarantors" and the following nineteen interested and loyal men signed our Bond: E. A. Barnes, S. B. Bechtel, A. S. Bond, H. J. Bowerfind, S. F. Bowser, A. G. Burry, D. A. Corey, Harry P. Fletcher, David N. Foster, W. M. Griffin, George A. Jacobs, Hugh G. Keegan, Robert Koerber, B. Paul Mossman, Wm. E. Mossman, W. O. McBride, Frank J. Rahe, Byron H. Somers, and E. F. Yarnelle.

These loyal citizens were released of their responsibility on January 14, 1936 when the old mortgage and bonds were cancelled and a new plan of loan for the \$10,000.00 balance was effected through the Fort Wayne Community Chest. This mortgage was burned at a Ceremony in January, 1943.

FOOD SERVICE

The "Noon Rest." was the first project of food service of the Fort Wayne Y.W.C.A. Its name was the one accepted by practically all Y.W.C.A.'s at that time. The price of a complete lunch was as low as 15¢, and girls were also permitted to bring their own lunch and eat it in the Noon Rest. When the Association moved to 51-53 W. Berry St., in 1897 it opened a real dining room. "It was decided to give the East Dining Room for ladies and gentlemen. Many women have wanted to bring gentlemen here for a meal. It was also decided to have a little extra for Saturday night supper as many women will want to continue their shopping after supper."

When the Y.W.C.A. moved into its own building at 325 W. Wayne St., an ultra modern dining room and kitchen were provided. The service of cafeteria style was an innovation in Fort Wayne, and it proved very popular. The dining room was a great success financially, and its success continued until other cafeterias appeared, along with dozens of new eating places, then the deficits crept in. The cafeteria was discontinued for a short time; and in 1936 the dining room opened to give table service to groups who had made reservations.

The dining room has always been kept attractive, and it radiates a dignity and hospitality which is a great credit to the Association. Y.W.C.A. clubs and outside groups make reservations well in advance to be assured accommodations.

CAMP YARNELLE

For several years the Board of Directors had tried to provide a summer camp for young women and girls.

For two years 1919-20 a small hotel at Clear Lake had been rented for the use of our Association. This was not entirely satisfactory. Single lake lots and other small lake property had been offered for perma-

nent sites, but none were equal to our needs. Finally in 1921, Mr. E.F.Yarnelle gave the Fort Wayne Y.W.C.A. a tract of land which is ideal for a camp. It consist of five acres bordering on Lake Winona in Kosciusko County; there are huge trees, a fine beach and a refined community. Mr.Yarnelle provided trucks which moved portable buildings to the lake. The buildings were loaned us by the Ft. Wayne Public School system and are still being used today. They were taken down gratis by the carpenters' Union, and set up at the camp by carpenters hired by Mr. Yarnelle. Mrs. Albert Dorsey, Mrs. Hugh Keegan, Mrs. George Jacobs and Mrs. A. J. Vesey gave valuable assistance by cooking for the workmen and hauling quantities of equipment in their own cars. The camp was dedicated June 19, 1921.

The Industrial Girls Club gave four boats to the camp, and the Girls' Work Department gave two boats. 500 girls attended camp during the first summer.

A unique phase of the camp has been afforded by the foreign student which is present each year as one of the instructors. These young women have done a great deal to promote sympathy and understanding of foreign ideas and customs to our young women.

Mr. Yarnelle had a continued interest in the camp and assisted us in many ways.

THE SWIMMING POOL

Shortly after the opening of the new home in 1913, Mr. W. E. Mossman offered the Y.W.C.A. a swimming pool on the condition that we should build the place for it. In 1922 this work was started.

The building committee was composed of Mrs. Frank Rahe, Miss Abigail Keegan, Mrs. Geo. Jacobs, Mrs. E. H. Underwood, Mr. E. A. Barnes, Mrs. J. S. House, and Mr. Matson. The chairman of the campaign was Mrs. Harry Bowser. \$200,000.00 was pledged to build the addition to the Y.W.C.A. building. A wing was built on the west side of the general building. This

not only enabled us to inclose the pool, but gave twelve showers, and dressing rooms; and on second and third floors additional offices and sleeping rooms.

The pool was opened October 3rd, 1924, and over 1000 people made applications for swimming lessons. It was a memorable event. Through the "vacation swim classes" hundreds of school children have learned to swim. Also, the use of the pool by polio victims has been a great blessing.

"AND THIS IS LIFE"

A Pageant presented by the Y.W.C.A.

Probably the most spectacular affair ever promoted by the local Y.W.C.A. was a pageant, in 1926, written by Miss Pattie N. Ellis. Thirteen hundred people participated in this colorful, impressive ritual given in the Shrine Theatre. It was outstanding because of the enormity of the production, and because it gave Fort Wayne her first impression of the global scope of the Y.W.C.A. But the invaluable advantage to the Association itself, was the actual demonstration that all peoples and classes can work well together and forget class, color, and sect differences. Hundreds of women who had previously had no Y.W.C.A. experience worked tirelessly to make it a great success. Such an experience is precious to the Association. This pageant can rightly be considered the spectacular climax to the Golden Twenties.

"MEMBERSHIP"

The policy of "Closed Membership" was the practice until the late 1920s. By this practice, participants of programs, classes or clubs were required to be paid members of the Association. To meet this rule some of the Girls' Clubs took their membership fees from the Club's dues. Often money-making projects enabled them to pay their membership.

In 1928 the "Open Policy" was adopted, which paraphrased, was: "Membership desired but not Required" for participation in program.

Up to 1930 the basis of Membership for an active member of the Association was known as the "Church Basis." That is, only members of Protestant Evangelical Churches were eligible to be electors.

In 1931 the Fort Wayne Association adopted the "Personal Basis" for membership. By this action, any person willing to sign the Purpose, and share in the responsibility for the realization of the Purpose may be an elector.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The Education Department had as its purpose,

- (1) to interpret the Association to members and outsiders.
- (2) to create study groups to pursue subjects vital to the Association.

This department studied and informed the Board of Directors of proposed legislation on child welfare, education, and social standards. Local civic problems also were studied by this group, and findings presented to the Directors.

One of the great stimulants to public thought has been the lectures, book reviews and seminars presented to Association audiences. Some of the foremost leaders of modern thought have, and still are, sharing their philosophies with our groups.

Association literature, Easter Booklets, etc., were prepared by this committee. However, these various phases of program have been allocated to some of the new committees, such as the World Fellowship, Public Affairs, and Young Adult Department.

Officers and staff members from the National Y.W.C.A. visit us often and these are occasions for inspiration and enthusiasm.

The WOMAN'S PRESS, the magazine of the National Y.W.C.A. is our most important publication today.

One person said "To read it, is to keep up to date."

HEALTH EDUCATION

No department of the Y.W.C.A. has attracted more people than that of the Health Education. The Y.W.C.A. was one of the first agencies to promote physical education in this city. The science of Health Education has developed extensively since 1894, and the Y.W.C.A. has kept pace with health science in its classes that at one time included indian clubs, dumb bells, calisthenics, etc., but has changed in pattern as the years have gone by. Weight normalizing and keep-fit classes have included those exercises especially fitted to the individual's needs. Thousands of women of Fort Wayne have come to know the Association through its excellent health program. Today our Health Education program seeks to co-ordinate the mental, physical and spiritual development of the individual.

OUR RELIGIOUS PROGRAM

The religious emphasis has developed and changed as our Association has grown, stage by stage. In the beginning members of the Association met, studied the Bible and gave verbal testimony of their religious experiences. Bible classes were held regularly through the years. Some of our present groups were originally formed because they had had similar religious revival experiences. Bible classes are less common now. However, the evidences that we are a Christian organization are no more lacking than in our pioneer days. Today we require no specific Church affiliation for our members. We welcome Jew, Gentile, Catholic, and Lutheran alike. But every one, to become an electoral member, must state that they "want to be one of a fellowship devoted to the task of realizing in our common life those ideals of living to which we are committed by our Faith as Christians."

After this declaration we realize that to give particular creed preference or denominational instruction would be unwise. The prevailing ambition of all program planning is to develop the brotherhood of man. The Y.W.C.A. is one of the few places where women of different faiths work together for a spiritual ideal.

EMPLOYED STAFF

The actual responsibility for programs of our Association has been largely carried by the employed staff in cooperation with volunteers. Members and committees formulate the policies and plans, and the professional leaders help in executing them. Our Association has been strong, considering the number on the staff. The debt which we owe our general and executive secretaries cannot be overestimated. Their spirit and personalities have permeated the far corners of our Association.

We started with one secretary in 1894 and as the work grew more staff were added. At one time we had twenty-two; then at the time of the depression we were cut to a Residence, Finance, and two part time office secretaries, along with Mrs. Woodard as acting general secretary. In 1944 we have thirteen employed staff and are feeling the need of more professional help.

The Executive secretaries were:

Miss Adelaide Abel	Miss Ruth Hawkins
Miss Cora Tinkham	Miss Lorena Boyd Mason
Miss Anna Cole	Mrs. L. A. Woodard
Miss Ida Jones	Miss Zelah Heinbaugh
Miss Ruth Ware	

Y. W. C. A. PRESIDENTS

Each president has given the Association strength and spirituality according to her talents. The presidents have grown and developed leadership by the aid of the members, and their successes reflect the loyalty of the membership. The presidents were:

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1894-95	Miss Agnes Hamilton
1895-96	Miss Lillie Beaber
1896-98	Miss Merica Hoagland (d)
1898-06	Mrs. Fred Hayden (d)
1906-10	Mrs. W. J. Vesey (d)
1910-14	Mrs. J. S. House (d)
1914-15	Mrs. Ada Barker Donnan (d)
1915-18	Mrs. B. Paul Mossman
1918-21	Mrs. H. Brooke Sale
1921-24	Miss Abigail Keegan
1924-27	Mrs. Jess W. Lipkey
1927-28	Mrs. George Jacobs
1928-31	Mrs. Wm. Page Yarnelle
1931-34	Mrs. L. A. Woodard
1934-36	Mrs. R. Nelson Snider
1936-38	Mrs. Dick M. Vesey
1938-40	Mrs. Louis E. Wade
1940-42	Mrs. O. K. Hilty (d)
1942-43	Mrs. Willis Richardson
1943-44	Mrs. Archie T. Keene

(d) - deceased.

FORT WAYNE MEMBERS RECOGNIZED BY THE
NATIONAL Y. W. C. A.

- Miss Agnes Hamilton: A social worker and philanthropist of National fame.
- Miss Blanche Adams: National Chairman of Industrial groups, 1926.
- Miss Margaret S. Vesey: Camp Hostess in World War I Continental City Secretary in South America for National Y.W.C.A. 1922-27. Member National Staff. General Secretary at Oklahoma City.
- Mrs. R. Nelson Snider: Discussion Leader for Regional Conferences.
- Mrs. Walter Kent: Member of the National Industrial Committee.
- Mrs. Wm. Page Yarnelle: Member of the National Planning Committee.

THE Y. W. C. A. PROMOTED

The Business & Professional Woman's Club
The Fort Wayne College Club - now a member
of the A.A.U.W.
Recreation Clubs for West-Side Girls - now
West-Side Neighborhood Center.
Annual School of Missions
Inter-Racial Commission
Study of Youth Seminar
Fort Wayne Youth's Council
Travelers' Aid

WAR HISTORY OF THE Y.W.C.A.

In World War I the American Y.W.C.A. formed its own War Work Council which served both at home and overseas. This Council later cooperated with seven National agencies in the United War Work Campaign. The National Association was responsible for maintaining "Hostess Houses" inside camps here and overseas. This service aided wives and families of soldiers. Y.W.C.A. women were not only hostesses but assisted in surveys, training courses, clubs and camp activities. They served in eight different countries. To many people the significance of the BLUE TRIANGLE dates from this War.

In World War II the Y.W.C.A. is one of the six agencies forming the U.S.O. Our World Emergency and War Victims Fund, now a participant in the National War Fund, has enabled the Y.W.C.A. to give international aid to the suffering women of the United Nations and refugees, evacuees and war prisoners.

Locally, our facilities and much of the volunteer and trained leadership of our Association is ready to meet any emergency. The Rooms Registry is operated at our building; and a lounge for service men's wives is ready for use with hostesses ever present.

With the influx of women into defense industries, the City finds it hard to furnish accommodations. The Y.W.C.A. is taxing its ingenuity to meet the great need and protection of these girls.

THE NEW RESIDENCE - 337 W. Wayne Street.

In June, 1943, the Board of Directors authorized the Board of Trustees to purchase the property for the new residence at the sum of \$16,000.00. By September 15th the house, now known as Residence Hall, was completely furnished at a cost of \$3,000.00, and seventeen girls, with their director, moved into the new home.

On October 3d, Residence Hall was formally dedicated. All funds for the purchase of the property and the furnishings were raised in a quiet campaign. To mention all who helped to provide this new home would be impossible, but special commendation must be given to some who shouldered a heavy task in the hot summer months and brought it to a successful completion before the year ended.

First, our sincere thanks to our Board of Trustees, who so ably guided us in our transaction, to Mrs. John Moring, Chairman of the Steering Committee who organized the financial campaign and indefatigably kept at the task until the last dollar was subscribed, to her committee composed of Mrs. Albert Dorsey, Mrs. Fred G. Knag, Mrs. Walter B. Jones, Mrs. Victor F. Rea, Mrs. Louis E. Wade, Mrs. Harry Ninde, Mrs. John Brooks, Mrs. Wm. E. Mossman, Mrs. Herbert H. Meyer, and Mrs. Albert Schaaf; to Mrs. C. W. Howard and Miss Marguerite Myers, Co-chairmen of the Solicitation Committee of 65 members who brought in these pledges; to Miss Adah Nelson and Miss Lela Fatters who added the clerical details of the campaign to their regular office work; to Mrs. Arthur W. Parry, Mrs. Charles Buesching, Mrs. Whiting Alden, Mrs. Robert Wylie and Mrs. E. F. Mast who planned, purchased and arranged every detail of the furnishings of the new residence.

We are justly proud of this accomplishment for it is the realization of a dream, and it all became a reality within six months.

FIFTY YEARS OF FLOWER AND GROWTH

One can hardly imagine a more humble, unpretentious start than that of the Y.W.C.A. here fifty years ago. It all began with a small seed, an idea - "to serve" to make life more bountiful for women and girls of Fort Wayne. The purpose of the Y.W.C.A. in 1894 was to "Stimulate interest in Evangelical religion among young women of this city, and to improve their

spiritual, intellectual, social and physical condition

During the first twenty-five years of the Y.W.C.A. a good foundation was built. It cherished the good will and affection of the community. Its home was comfortable and adequate; now it was time for more than fundamental needs. It was time to encourage girls and women to express themselves through character development. And how better to do that than to give them responsibility? Recreation was promoted not as a competitive sport, but for character and body building.

A summer camp was dreamed of, and finally acquired. Camp Yarnelle has given many girls their first real vacation. Industrial Club girls found a haven from their daily routine of work and monotony. Younger girls learned independence for the first time, by a vacation without family. The swimming pool in the Y.W.C.A. attracted hundreds of girls. There were thousands of girls in business and industry who looked to the Y.W.C.A. as a release from a drab life, a place where they could express themselves through classes, music, clubs and friendships.

The time had come not to do "for" the girls, but to do "with" them the numerous projects of the Association.

We believe that character building is a process of working, making decisions and cooperating with others. But it was many years before the real glory of the Y.W.C.A. revealed itself. We were a Christian organization with democratic principles, but not until the new Purpose was adopted and accepted in practice were we truly democratic. By this turn of Association philosophy we became a fellowship, receiving as well as giving our individual share toward the realization of the Purpose:

"To build a fellowship of women and girls devoted to the task of realizing in our common life those ideals of personal and social living to which we are committed by

our faith as Christians.

In this endeavor we seek to understand Jesus, to share his love for all people, and to grow in the knowledge and love of God."

Each electoral member signs this declaration that "I desire to belong to this fellowship and to share in the responsibility for the realization of the Purpose."

The day of the change of our Purpose from "service to women" to "fellowship with women" was the day of our maturity. To furnish a home for young women, to offer them social, educational, and spiritual opportunities is no longer a service. It is the extension of the promise of a full life to all women of our Association. It is the realization of "Not by Might nor by Power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts." Zech. 4:6.

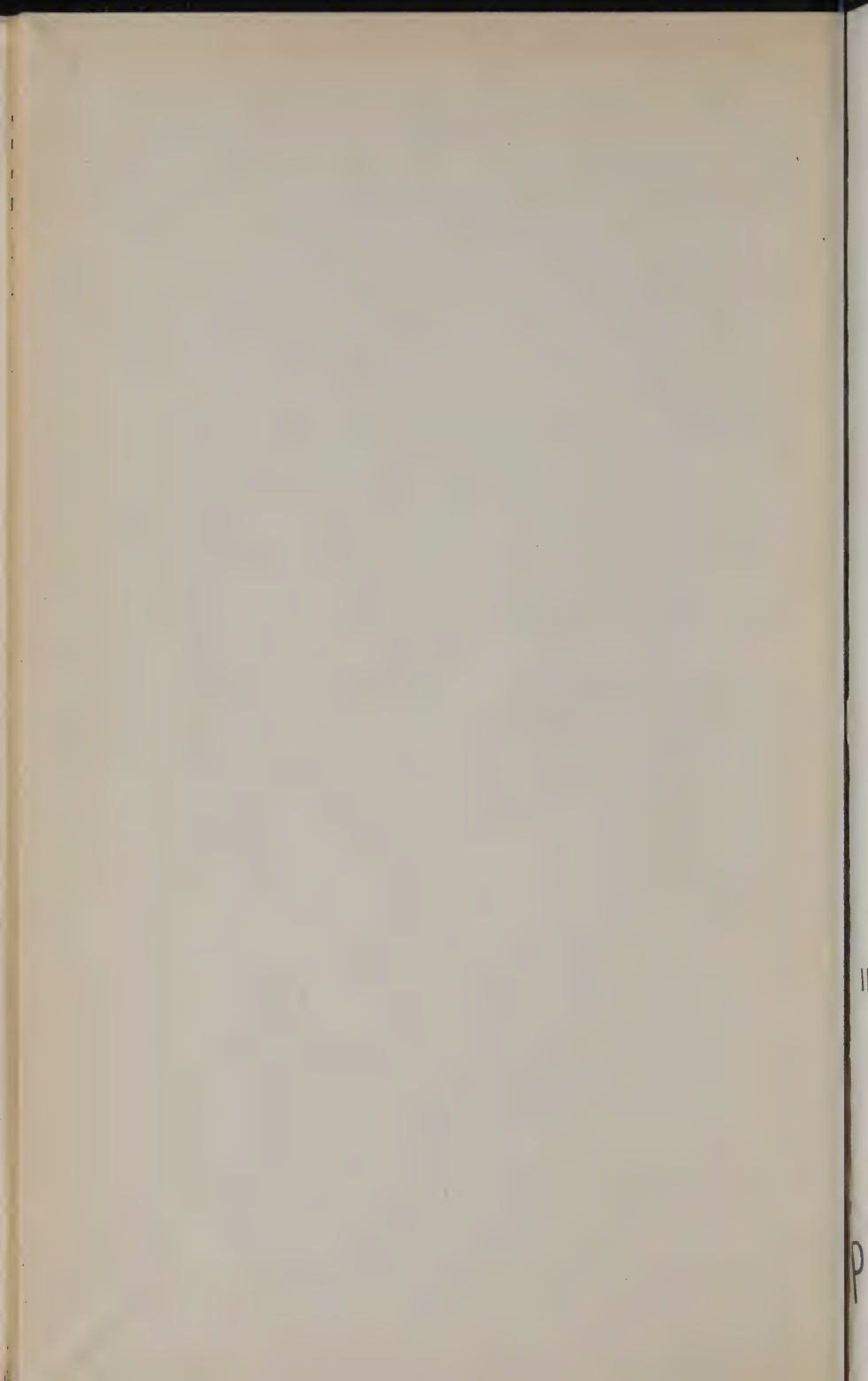
Our ambition to be democratic in practice, as well as in theory is demonstrated in the relationship between Club members, Staff, Committee and Board members of the Association. A mutual respect of opinion is the flower of democracy, and our Y.W.C.A. has flowered.

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Golden Anniversary
Young Women's Christian Association

Fort Wayne, Indiana

PAMPHLETS

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1944

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The Golden Anniversary Annual Meeting

Y. M. C. A., Fort Wayne, Indiana

January 21, 1944

P R O G R A M

Presiding . . . Mrs. Archie T. Keene, President

Invocation . . . Miss Abigail Keegan

Period Singing . . . By Decades

Business:

Minutes—1943 Annual Meeting . Miss Mary Felger

Treasurer's Report . . . Mrs. George Bryce

Annual Report . . . Mrs. Archie T. Keene

Report of Nominating Committee

. . . Mrs. Wm. S. Mossman

Greetings:

The City . . . Mayor Harry W. Baals

War Chest . . . Mr. Otto Marahrens

Community Chest . . . Mr. Wm. F. Hauser

Y. M. C. A. . . . Mr. Louis A. Schwan

Girl Reserve Trio:

Rosemary Bird, Doris Lontz, Alice Lowry

Accompanist, Ruth Lowry

"Do You Remember When" . Mrs. Wm. Page Yarnelle

"Tomorrow's Vision" . . . Miss Rhoda McCulloch

Benediction

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WE ARE A MEMBER AGENCY
OF THE
FORT WAYNE COMMUNITY CHEST





